

Article - Natural Resources

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§5-504.

(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, upon completion of any cutting operation the operator or landowner shall leave uncut and uninjured at least eight cone-bearing loblolly, shortleaf, or pond pine trees 14 inches or larger in diameter on each acre cut for the purpose of reseeding. If eight cone-bearing loblolly, shortleaf, or pond pines 14 inches in diameter are not present on any acre, the operator or landowner shall leave uncut and uninjured in place of each cone-bearing loblolly, shortleaf, or pond pine tree of the required diameter, at least two cone-bearing pine trees of the next largest diameter there standing. Trees left uncut pursuant to this section for the purpose of reseeding shall be healthy, windfirm, well-distributed throughout each acre, and with well-developed crowns possessing a sufficient number of cones to reforest the areas affected by the cutting operation.

(2) Cone-bearing pine trees need not be reserved if there are at least 400 loblolly, pond, or shortleaf pine seedlings on each acre which are vigorous, well distributed throughout, and free to grow upon completion of the cutting operation.

(b) Instead of leaving pine trees or seedlings pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the area where any cutting operation has been conducted may be reforested pursuant to a plan approved by the Department.

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